Decentralisation of procurement scheme

2668. SHRI K.B. KRISHNA MURTHY: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether many States still refuse to adopt the procurement decentralisation scheme which costs the Centre dearly on food subsidy bill;

(b) whether these States extract procurement taxes from FCI;

(c) whether Abhijit Sen panel has recommended doing away the practice of FCI acting as a conduit for transferring Central resources to States; and

(d) whether acceptance of such recommendation would yield a saving of more than Rs. 1000.00 crores on FCI procurement costs?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI ASHOK PRADHAN): (a) to (d) Yes, Sir. The High Level Committee, in its interim report has recommended that the statutory levies imposed by the State Governments on foodgrains should be eliminated and should be replaced by direct transfers from the Central Government to the State Governments.

The removal of statutory levies on foodgrains would result in a saving of over Rs. 1000 crores.

Storage capacity of FCI

2669. SHRI K.B. KRISHNA MURTHY: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether 1/3rd of the world's wheat and 1/4th of rice buffer stocks are held by India;

(b) whether 6.7 million tonnes of foodgrains are still stored in the open by FCI;

(c) what is the storage capacity held by FCI and its hired capacity